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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BOX: PATENT APPLICATION

Applicants: Mahendran, Mailvaganam; Goodboy, Kenneth P., et al.

Application's Title: HOLLOW FIBER MEMBRANE AND BRAIDED TUBULAR
SUPPORT THEREFOR

Serial No.:

Filed:

Group Art Unit: 1723

Examiners: Ana Fortuna & Richard Ward

Docket No.: ZEN-9801A

4 January 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231.

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

pg 8, replace the paragraph starting at line 8 with the following paragraph:

Though a "shrink test" is commonly conducted on yarns by heat shrinking in water at 98°C via a Texurmat boil off; or, in dry air at 177°C with 0.045 gf/dtex tension for 2 min (DuPont); or, in dry air at 190°C with 0.135 gf/d for 30 sec (Monsanto), to date there has been no reason to heat pre-shrink any tubular braid of synthetic resin, prior to its being coated with polymer for the stated purpose of this invention, namely to make outside-in hollow fiber microfiltration and ultrafiltration asymmetric membranes. More particularly, since a braid woven with glass fiber is essentially non-heat-shrinkable, there has been no reason to provide a stable length of a polyester or nylon tubular braid by pre-shrinking it so that its shrunk length is about 84% of its pre-shrunk length at the same time ensuring that the braid retains at least 95% of its tensile strength.